

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING BOARD**

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wisconsin Statutes, a regular meeting of the **Brown County Criminal Justice Coordinating Board** was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 in the Truttman Room of the Law Enforcement Center – 300 East Walnut Street, Green Bay.

Present: Judge Kendall Kelley-Chair, Brian Shoup, Phil Steffen, John Gossage, Jeffrey Cano, Tony Walter, Pat Evans
Excused: Tom De Wane, Jim Arts, John Zakowski, Lesley Green
Citizen Reps: Tim McNulty, Jeffrey Jazgar

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Judge Kendall Kelley at 3:45 p.m.

2. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

Motion made by Evans, seconded by Shoup to approve. Vote taken. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **Approve/Modify Minutes of March 29, 2011.**

Motion made by Shoup, seconded by Evans to approve. Vote taken. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Board Planning and Membership.**

Judge Kelley asked the Board if anybody had anything to offer with regard to the issue of membership. Evans made a suggestion that the Board Chair send an e mail to government entities such as the Human Services Committee, Human Services Board, Public Safety Committee, Health Department, Mayor of Green Bay and surrounding communities and surrounding police departments providing them with the mission statement of the Board and letting them know that if they have any issues to be brought forward to contact the Chair. Judge Kelley thought this sounded like a good suggestion and he will do this before the next meeting to see what kind of a response he gets.

Motion made by Evans, seconded by Shoup, to send a letter to area government entities with the mission statement of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Board and letting said agencies know that if they have any issues to be brought forward or agenda items to contact the Chair. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The next item discussed was the membership of this Board. Gossage stated that he had received a request from Sheriff's Department Accountant Don Hein that his position be eliminated from this Board. Gossage indicated that even if this position was eliminated from the Board, he would still have the ability to speak with Hein with regard to any issues that would have fiscal impact.

Motion made by Gossage, seconded by Steffen, to make a recommendation to the County Executive to remove the position of Sheriff's Department Accountant from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Board. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Veteran's Court.**

The status of Veteran's Court was discussed. Judge Kelley stated that he had recently had a meeting with some of the people who will be involved with the Veteran's Court. It became apparent from this meeting that the concept as it pertains to the more general purpose of this Board would not necessarily be limited to the idea of a Veteran's Court, but rather to specialty courts in general and the effect they have on jail population. The general concept is not to hold people less accountable, but rather to address particular needs of certain types of offenders that can be addressed effectively in a separate way. The federal government would bear virtually all of the start-up expenses of a Veteran's Court unless it was extended into some other services. Judge Kelley went on to state that the roll of this Board would be to provide a resource for any specialty court because the people that are most affected by these issues are on this Board. Judge Kelley felt it would be vital to give these offenders the services they need in order to prevent them from reoffending. Judge Kelley further stated that he felt that in terms of the general concept of specialty courts, and by having this Board involved, resources would be provided to facilitate the process and ensure that everybody's interest is represented in that process and get back to the initial purpose which is to do whatever can be done to facilitate the best use of the taxpayer dollars as it relates to the jail.

Evans asked what percentage of people convicted last year were veterans. Judge Kelley indicated that there currently was nothing in the system to identify veterans and that is one of the problems that exist. Sheriff Gossage indicated that they could add veteran status to the classification process at the jail to help identify who the veterans are.

The question was then raised as to what eligibility requirements would need to be met for a vet to be accepted into Veteran's Court. Judge Kelley indicated that there would be a lot of criteria that would need to be established and, further, just because a person is a vet, there would be no guarantee that he/she would be accepted into Veteran's Court.

Cano opined that many times individuals are in these treatment courts as a result of service they have given to this country. He also felt that people serving during peace time may suffer traumatic events that lead to trouble just as serving in war may result in traumatic events leading to legal trouble. Steffens agreed that traumatic events can happen at times other than combat such as on training missions. Judge Kelley stated that there will be parameters with regard to this; however, it can get fairly complicated because the traditional concept of military service has changed a great deal over the years. Judge Kelley felt that a Veteran's Court would not be a good option for an individual who does not possess the sort of disposition that a veteran normally would such as the sense of camaraderie and commitment. Judge Kelley stressed that a Veteran's Court is not to hold someone less accountable because they are a veteran; it is more of a mechanism to make sure that they get the right services in an attempt to rehabilitate them.

Shoup stated that one reason he likes the idea of specialty courts is that the accountability is higher in terms of what the expectations are. From a treatment standpoint, a treatment court has a higher intensity of involvement and if an individual is kept in treatment, the outcomes are typically better.

Jazgar felt that all specialty courts should be established in a similar manner and then specific criteria should be put into place for each court so that there is not a duplication of services. Jazgar further stated that with regard to the proposed budget cuts to the Assistant DA's, there might become a necessity for criminal mediation of cases and he felt that this was important because it all stems from the beginning with the DA making a discretionary decision as to whether something should be charged and at what level it should be charged. He opined that this Board will have a bearing on how this is dealt with because if cases are overcharged there would be more work than the system can handle, and thus more need in trying to reduce jail overcrowding by trying to get offenders into

deferred prosecution agreements or treatment courts right away to prevent the system from becoming bogged down.

Judge Kelley indicated that he intends to move forward with Veteran's Court, but it would be a better process if this Board were involved. He hoped to have a steering committee put together within the next few weeks and will also be consulting with Judge Zuidmulder since he started the Drug Court. Judge Kelley stated that there are several Veteran's Courts in Wisconsin and each one works a little differently and evolved a little differently. Mc Nulty felt a steering committee was a very good idea, but questioned specifically what resources this Board has that would be beneficial. Cano stated that he felt we would need the support of the County Board and this Board would be a method of communication with the County Board and the community. He felt that if there is not sufficient communication as to the concept of a Veteran's Court, the community may perceive it as letting someone off lightly and then these treatment courts would not be successful.

6. **Jail Overcrowding.**

This item will be discussed further at the next meeting of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Board.

7. **Such other matters as authorized by law.**

None.

8. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Evans and seconded by Shoup to adjourn at 4:38 p.m. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary